Onion Export Zones

3888. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Special Onion Export Zones have been established at certain places in Maharashtra; and

(b) Government's contribution to these Special Export Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government agencies contribution of Rs. 6.13 crores is envisaged.

Tea-gardens in North-Eastem Region

3889. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INOUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea-gardens in different States of the North-Eastem Region, State-wise;

(b) the number of small growers in the field of tea-productions, State-wise;

(c) the facilities, the small growers get from Government concerned;

(d) the North-Eastem States where full processing of tea-leaves undertaken;

(e) the States of the North-East which cannot yet afford full processing of tea by the growers themselves; and

(f) the steps Government are going to take for improving the trade in tea and benefiting the growers and the workers as well ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND JNDUSTRY (SHRi CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Details of the number of tea gardens and small growers in different States of the North-Eastem Region (as in 2001) are given below:—

States	Total Number of tea gardens	Number of Small Growers (upto 10.12 Hectares)
1	2	3
Assam	40783	40015

1	2	3
Tripura	292	238
Manipur	39	33
Arunachal Pradesh	50	23
Nagaland	94	87
Meghalaya	15	8
Mizoram	12	5
Sikkim	74	73
TOTAL:	41359	40482

(c) Government/Tea Board are implementing various schemes to benefit the small tea growers. The details are given below:—

(i) New planting by small growers located in the non-traditional areas in North-Eastem States;

(ii) Setting up of pilot tea producers societies for the benefit of small growers;

(iii) Strengthening of extension services for closer interface between the small growers and the research station;

(iv) Setting up of small growers advisory service cell;

(v) Imparting training to small growers on modem aspect of tea growing and manufacture through Assam Agricultural University and North Bengal University etc.;

(iv) Setting up of co-operative tea factories in the small grower sectors.

(d) Full processing of tea leaves is undertaken in the States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

(e) The full processing of tea leaves is not undertaken in Nagaland and Mizoram.

(f) Government/Tea Board has taken a number of steps for improving the trade in tea and benefiting the growers and the workers, which include notification of Tea Marketing (Control) Order, 2003 and changes in the auction rules to provide for a more transparent price discovery mechanism for tea, abolition of the excise duty of Re. 1/-per Kg. and replacing it by an additional duty of excise of Re. 1/- per Kg. by way of surcharge for creating a separate fund for development, modernisation and rehabilitation

of the tea plantation sector, implementation of a relief package announced by the RBI which provides for restructuring/reschedulement of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc., implementation of a factory upgradation scheme,implementation of a medium term export strategy, financial incentives for exporters of tea for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transport/freight charges, implementation of a Quality Upgradation Programme etc.

US for joint initiative at WTO negotiations on services

3890. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from US for joint initiative with India at the WTO's negotiations on services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the Indian view point on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Government has not received any proposal from the USA for a joint initiative with India in the WTO negotiations on services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of Chinese goods

3891. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether in spite of Government slapping anti-dumping duties on Chinese products, the China's export to India during the year 2002-03 has reached at an all time high;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed the adverse impact of such heavy exports by China on indigenous industries and exports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to save the indigenous industries by such exports from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) China's export to India has been increasing consistently over the last few years. Exports from China to India was US $ 2031.73 million in the year 2001 -02 and US $ 1728.86 million during the period Apr.—Nov., 2003.